

SARSAT Weekly Rescues Report for period 31 August to 6 September 2012.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System Rescues,
Ten.

Incident 1:

Beacon ID: 2DCE70272AFFBFF

On 1 September 2012 at 2136 UTC the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB at 34 20.6 N 76 23.0 W, 75 NM east of Wilmington, NC. The master of the pleasure craft Black Magic activated his PLB when the vessel became disabled. Coast Guard District 5 (CGD5) received the SARSAT alert and soon after, received a MAYDAY call from the Black Magic confirming the distress. The CGD5 launched a C-130 aircraft from Air Station Elizabeth City and a 47 foot Motor Life Boat from Fort Macon to the SARSAT position. The C-130 arrived on scene first and vectored the Motor Life Boat to the Black Magic. The Motor Life Boat arrived on scene and safely towed the Black Magic back into port.

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Incident 2:

Beacon ID: ADCC576D7C0029D

On 2 September 2012 at 1853 UTC the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz ELT at 68 07.9N 149 26.1W, at the Atigun Pass of the Brooks Range in Alaska. A Piper Super Cub (N82016), with one person on board, crashed at a small airstrip. The ELT activated automatically in the crash, and then the pilot activated his PLB. The Alaska Rescue Coordination Center (AKRCC) received both SARSAT alerts and contacted the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Transportation (AKDOT). The AKDOT informed AKRCC they had personnel in the area, and AKRCC gave them the SARSAT position. A friend of the downed pilot called the AFRCC, and said that the pilot called him by satellite phone and stated that he needed help, but the call got cut off. The AKDOT personnel located the pilot, and moved him to a clearing, where he was picked up by a civilian medical helicopter.

1 SARSAT RESCUE

Incident 3:

Beacon ID: ADCD022EF942001

On 3 September 2012 at 1609 UTC the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz EPIRB at 28 18.3N 84 29.5W, about 100 NM west of New Port Richey, FL. The master of the power fishing vessel Scoby II manually activated the EPIRB when the vessel, with two persons on board, began taking on water. The Coast Guard District 7 Rescue Coordination Center (CGD7) received the SARSAT alert, issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast (UMIB), and launched an MH-60 helicopter to the SARSAT position. A Good Samaritan vessel responded to the UMIB and assisted the Scoby II. The MH-60 arrived on scene and lowered dewatering pumps. When the MH-60 arrived, the Good Samaritan vessel departed the scene. The flooding on the Scoby II was controlled, but the vessel was disabled. The vessel's master requested the Coast Guard to provide a tow. Coast Guard Sector St. Petersburg launched the Cutter Marlin, but cautioned the people on board the Scoby II, the Marlin would not reach the distressed vessel in a reasonable time. Both people agreed to abandon the Scoby II and were hoisted on board the MH-60. The Scoby II was left anchored, for the Marlin to tow to port.

2 SARSAT RESCUES

Incident 4:

Beacon ID: 2DCE7056E2FFBFF

On 4 September 2012 at 1447 UTC the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz PLB at 36 05.4N, 112 05.3W, at the Grand Canyon, AZ. A hiker became dehydrated while traversing the canyon and activated the PLB. Air Force Rescue Coordination Center received the SARSAT alert and forwarded it to the Arizona Department of Emergency Management, which forwarded it to an Arizona State SAR coordinator. The SAR coordinator used the SARSAT position to locate the dehydrated hiker and took him to a nearby medical facility.

1 SARSAT RESCUE

Incident 5:

Beacon ID: ADCD40C1840028D

On 31 August 2012 at 0754 UTC the COSPAS-SARSAT system detected a 406 MHz EPIRB at 57 26.1N, 151 40.7W, 31 NM

southeast of Kodiak, AK. Coast Guard District 17 Rescue Coordination Center (CGD17) received a SARSAT alert from the Fishing Vessel Advantage with 4 people on board. CGD17 contacted the Advantage's owner, who attempted to contact the vessel, but could not. CGD17 made unanswered callouts, and issued an urgent marine information broadcast. The Advantage's owner provided CGD17 with a general location of the Advantage's normal fishing grounds. The provided location matched one of the already received SARSAT locations. CGD17 launched an MH-60 helicopter from Air Station Kodiak. Once the helicopter was airborne it was immediately able to home in on the Advantage's EPIRB using 406 MHz direction finding equipment. The helicopter located the Advantage's debris field and 3 people on a life raft. The 3 crew members were hoisted on board the helicopter, and transported to Kodiak for treatment of severe hypothermia. The Advantage sank too quickly for the crew to don survival suits. One of the 3 crew members rescued was declared dead at Providence Hospital, in Kodiak. The fourth crew member was never found despite multiple Coast Guard Searches.

3 SARSAT RESCUES

Total number of rescues for FY 12: 231

Total number of rescues for the calendar year 2012: 174

Significance: The SARSAT system protects life and property in support of the nation's commerce and transportation systems. (LTJG Timothy Sinquefield, 301-817-4757)